

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Robert S. Allen - Paul Scott Report

White House Official Helped Kill Bill to Embargo Trade With Cuba

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By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

Cuba's Dictator Castro can thank some of his "friends" in the Kennedy administration for keeping open the flow of badly needed U. S. dollars to support his pro-Communist espionage and propaganda activities in South America.

The group, headed by Richard Goodwin, 29-year-old White House "expert" on Latin America, took full advantage of the last-minute adjournment confusion in the Senate to block a House-passed bill prohibiting all commerce between the U.S. and Cuba.

Sponsored by Representative Paul Rogers, D. Fla., and strongly supported by House Democratic leaders, the bill would have barred the annual flow of at least \$30 million from the U. S. to Cuba for goods shipped from Havana.

The Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee shelved the legislation after Goodwin succeeded in getting the State Department to send letters to all members opposing the mandatory embargo.

Signed by Assistant Secretary of State Brooks Hays, the letter dismissed the Rogers bill as "unnecessary" on the grounds that "existing legislation provides broad authority to accomplish the aim which would be achieved by passage of the legislation."



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AS EDITED ALMOST WEEKLY by the White House since last April's ill-fated Cuban invasion, the letter again raises the possibility that the President might use his present authority to stop an embargo on U. S. Cuban trade, stating:

"The administration has under consideration measures which, if applied, would result in an embargo on U. S. trade with Cuba."

However, the opposition role of Goodwin, who has been holding a series of private meetings with Cuba's top Communist leaders, raises serious doubt of whether an embargo will ever be put into effect.

For weeks, he has conducted a one-man campaign within the administration to delay an embargo.

Aided by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., special assistant to the President, Goodwin has stymied action by raising numerous technical questions about a State Department plan calling for President Kennedy to stop Cuban trade by invoking the Trading with the Enemy Act.

THE INVOCATION of the act has long been favored by Robert Woodward, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, Goodwin's objection has held up any final action.

According to a Defense Department memorandum, a total embargo would aggravate the food shortages in Cuba. These shortages have been worsening in recent months, leading to a system of rationing, and to a growing dissatisfaction with the Castro regime.